

A N
ACCOUNT

Of all the

*Duplicate of
1139 C.S. (6.)*

GOLD and SILVER

COINS

Ever used in

ENGLAND:

PARTICULARLY,

Of their *Value, Fineness, and Allay*, and
the *Standards* of Gold and Silver in all the
respective Reigns for the last Six hundred
Years.

LIKEWISE

Of it's Plenty and Scarcity : More especially
of that remarkable Scarcity of *Silver* com-
plain'd of in PARLIAMENT in Henry VIth. time,
and the Determinations on it ; with a Me-
thod propos'd to Redress our present Grie-
vance, in respect to our Want of *Silver* :
Faithfully Collected from Records and the
Best Historians.

L O N D O N :

Printed for JOHN MORPHEW, near
Stationers-Hall. 1718.

Price Six-Pence.

A. N.

ACCOUNT

OF THE

REVENUE

FOR THE

YEAR

ENDING

AT THE

CLOSURE

OF THE

ACCOUNT

4



A N

ACCOUNT

Of all the

GOLD *and* SILVER COINS.

THE Title will inform the Reader what he may expect from the following Papers; most of which being drawn up some Time ago upon a particular Occasion, are now exposed to Publick View: This I have only to add, That he may depend upon their being faithfully collected. If they may prove any way serviceable in the present Con-juncture, the Author has his End. I shall begin with the Gold Coin. The first of these we meet with was call'd an *Angel*: Its Name it took from an *Angel* impress'd on one Side of the Piece, their Value was at different times;

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>Angels</i>	1	<i>H. vi.</i>	00	6	8
	1	<i>H. viii.</i>	00	7	6
	34	<i>H. viii.</i>	00	8	0
	6	<i>E. vi.</i>	00	10	0

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>Half-Angels</i>	5	<i>E. iv.</i>	00	3	4
	1	<i>H. viii.</i>	00	3	9
	34	<i>H. viii.</i>	00	4	0

according to this Account the Reader may perceive, that when in History he meets with the Word *Angels*, *Half-Angels*, *Farthing-Angels*, or with any other Coin, he must observe what Kings Reign he is in, to understand exactly what the Sum amounts to: For otherwise he will be liable to Mistakes; which was necessary to be observed once for all. I go on now to speak of the Value of

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>Angelets</i>	1	<i>H. vi.</i>	00	3	4
	34	<i>H. viii.</i>	00	4	0
	6	<i>E. vi.</i>	00	5	0

From hence it plainly appears, that there was no Difference at all between *Half-Angels* and *Angelets*. Proceed we now to Discourse of other Gold Coins. And first of the

Crowns

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>Crowns of the</i>					
<i>Double Rose</i>	1	<i>H. viii,</i>	00	5	0
<i>Britain Crowns</i>	1	<i>Jac. i.</i>	00	5	0
	9	<i>Jac. i.</i>	00	5	6
<i>Double Crowns</i>	1	<i>Jac. i.</i>	00	10	0
	9	<i>Jac. i.</i>	00	11	0
<i>Thistle Crowns</i>	1	<i>Jac. i.</i>	00	4	0
	9	<i>Jac. i.</i>	00	4	4 <i>b q.</i>
<i>Florens</i>	18	<i>E. iii.</i>	00	6	0

which Names they were first call'd by, because made by the *Florentines*, as some of our best Historians assure us. *Fabian* is of Opinion, that these *Florens* of *Edw. the III.* were not of so fine Gold as his *Nobles*, and *Half-Nobles* were. And it's very particular, that he calls the *Floren* a *Penny*, Value 6 *s.* 8 *d.* the *Half-Floren*, he calls a *Half-Penny*, Value 3 *s.* 4 *d.* the *Quarter-Floren*, he calls a *Farthing*, Value 1 *s.* 8 *d.* Anciently our English *Coin*, call'd the *Penny* had a *Cross* on it, by which means the Peice was broken assunder; if it was broke in half, it call'd a *Half-Penny*, the fourth Part broke off, was call'd a *Fourththing*; from whence comes our Word *Farthing*.

The next Piece of Gold among us in use, was the *Noble*, which was call'd by that

that Name, by reason of its being made of the noblest and purest Gold : Its Value in different Reigns was as follows :

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>Noble</i>	18 E. iii.	00	06	8
	5 E. iv.	00	10	0
	26 Eliz.	00	15	0

There were likewise in use among us *George-Nobles* and *Double-Nobles*, but of their Value and Fineness in different Times, our Ancient Authors have not given us any particular Account to be depended upon. The next in Course are the

		<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
<i>Rials</i> or	1 H. vi.	00	10	0
<i>Royals</i>	1 H. viii.	00	11	3

There were likewise *Rose-Rials* and *Spur-Rials*, and Dr. Kennet in his *Parochial Antiquities*, a Book a Historian would not be without, makes mention of *Spurarian Aureum*, used in the Year 1292. but whether this was an *English Coin*, the Doctor does not inform us, nor have we any Light in our Histories. About the Year 1427, we had in use among us a *French Coin* of Gold, call'd a *Scute*; it appears its Value was about
3*s.* 4*d.*

3 s. 4 d. Another of our Coins were the

		l.	s.	d.
<i>Sovereigns</i>	1 <i>H. viii.</i>	01	02	6
	34 <i>H. viii.</i>	01	00	0
	4 <i>E. vi.</i>	01	04	0
	5 <i>E. vi.</i>	01	10	0 <i>Old-ft.</i>

		l.	s.	d.
<i>Unites</i>	1 <i>Jac. i.</i>	01	00	0
	10 <i>Jac. i.</i>	01	11	0

A certain Author takes notice, that by a Proclamation issued out in the Ninth Year of *James I.* Gold was raised 2 s. a Pound; but *Charles I.* brought it again to the Standard of the first Year of *James I.* I shall now give the Reader a Table of the *Fineness, Allay, and Make* in *Silver*, collected out of Mr. *Lowndes's* Accounts, whose Performance got him much Reputation upon the account of its Exactness, and the Nation much Benefit from its Usefulness. But first of all it's necessary for me to apprise the Reader, that a Pound of Gold, *Troy-weight*, was divided into 24 Carats, and each Carat into 4 Grains: and that the Old Standard of England was 23 Carats, 3 Grains and a half of Fine Gold, and half a Grain of Allay, which might be either *Silver* or *Copper*.

Fineness

		Fineness.	Alloy	Make in Silver			The same Year.
Years.		Car. gr.	ca. gr.	l.	s.	d.	
18 E. iii.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	15	00	00	
		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	13	03	04	
		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	14	00	00	
20 E. iii.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$					
27 30 37	}						
46 E. iii.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	15	00	00	
18 R. ii.							
3 H. iv.	}						
9 H. v.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	16	13	04	
1 H. vi.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	22	10	00	
4 H. vi.	}	23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	16	13	04	
49 H. vi.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	22	10	00	
5 E. iv.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	22	10	00	
8 II 16	}						
22 E. iv.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$		22	10	00	
1 R. iii.							
9 H. vii.	}						
1 H. viii.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	27	00	00	
the same Yr.		22 00	2 0	25	02	06	
34 H. viii.		23 00	1 0	28	16	00	
36 H. viii.		22 00	2 0	30	00	00	
37 H. viii.		20 00	4 0	30	00	00	
1 E. vi.		20 00	4 0	30	00	00	
3 E. vi.		20 00	2 0	34	00	00	
4 E. vi.		22 00	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	28	16	00	
6 E. vi.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	36	00	00	
6 E. vi.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	2 0	33	00	00	
1 Mary.		22 00	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	36	00	00	
2 Eliz.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	36	00	00	
2 Eliz.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	2 0	33	00	00	
19 Eliz.		22 00	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	36	00	00	
43 Eliz.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	36	10	00	
43 Eliz.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	2 0	33	10	00	
1 Jac. i.		22 00	2 0	37	10	00	
3 Jac. i.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	2 0	40	10	00	
10 Jac. i.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	44	00	00	
10 Jac. i.		22 00	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	18	04	
2 Car. i.		23 $3\frac{1}{2}$	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	44	10	00	
2 Car. i.		22 00	2 0	41	00	00	
12 Car. ii.		22 00	2 0	44	10	00	
1 Jac. ii.	}						
W. & Mary		22 00	2 0	44	10	00	
Q. Anne							

FROM this Table, it most evidently appears, that the same Piece of Gold which in 1344, the 18 of *Edw. III.* was worth 13, 14 or 15 Pound in Silver did rise by Degrees to go for 44 Pound 10 s. 00 d. And it is well worth our Notice to observe, that it was not so fine neither; but if a *Penny* then was worth our *Three-pence*, and 20 *Shillings* worth our 40 *Shillings*, then Gold and Silver have kept pretty near the same Proportion to each other; for three times 15 Pound, make 45 Pounds, which is Ten *Shillings* more than a Pound of Gold now goes at.

I proceed now to speak of *Silver Coin*. A Pound *Libra*, contains 12 Ounces, and tho' now it signifies Twenty *Shillings*, (when apply'd to Money) which is but the 3d Part of a Pound in Weight; yet it is, because formerly 20 s. did weigh a full Pound, or 12 Ounces. Each of these Ounces contain'd so many *Solidi* or *Shillings*, and so many *Denarii* or *Pence*, as they who govern'd the Money Matters thought fit; sometimes more and sometimes fewer. K. *Edgar* made a most excellent Law, That there should be the same Money, the same Weight, and the same Measures, throughout the Kingdom; but it does not appear, that

B this

this was ever well observ'd. Can there be any thing more vexatious than to find, that when we go out of one County into another, we must learn a new Language, or else we cannot buy or sell a Thing? An Acre is not an Acre, nor a Bushel a Bushel, if we travel but Ten Miles. A Pound is not a Pound, if you go from a Goldsmith to a Grocer; nor a Gallon a Gallon, if you go from the Ale-house to the Tavern. To what Purpose does this Variety serve, or what Necessity is there, which the Difference of Price would not better answer and supply?

THE next Denomination of Money we meet with, is a *Mark*, which the Saxons call'd *Mancus* or *Mancusa*, *Mearc*, &c. Amongst them it came to Thirty Pence, which was of their Money Six Shillings; when a *Mark* came to be valu'd at 13 s. 4 d. is not very certain from History, but *Matthew Paris*, in the Life of *Guarinus*, Abbot of *St. Albans*, in the Year 1194, tells us a *Mark* was then 13 s. 4 d. and so it has continu'd to this Day, without any Variation; but here 'tis necessary to be observ'd, that there was never any such Piece of Silver coin'd as a *Mark*, nor probably any such Piece of Gold since the *Norman Conquest*, tho'

tho' some think it takes its Name from some Mark or Signature on it. Nor was there ever any such Piece of Silver coin'd as an *Angel*; but for as much as the Piece of Gold of that Name was in Value Ten Shillings, therefore that Sum is call'd an *Angel*; and so likewise it is with what we call a *Noble*, which goes for Six Shillings and Eight Pence in Accounts; but there has not been any such Piece of Gold coin'd at that Price since the 9th of *Hen. V.* they were first coin'd by *Edw. III.* 1344, there being at that Time no Silver Coin but *Pence* and *Half-Pence*; but about Five Years afterward *Groats* and *Half-Groats* were coin'd. And here it may not be improper to take notice, that in 1389, several Coiners were condemn'd and hang'd for adulterating the Coin.

A **CROWN** was not coin'd before *Edward VI's* Time, it being the first Silver Coin of the Value of Five *Shillings*; the Name is very ancient, but then it was always of Gold. *Half-Crowns*, they were of the same Date with the *Crowns*, they not having been in Use with us before.

SHILLINGS, there was never any Piece of Silver of that Name coin'd in *England*, till the Year 1504, when *Fabian*, an ob-

this was ever well observ'd. Can there be any thing more vexatious than to find, that when we go out of one County into another, we must learn a new Language, or else we cannot buy or sell a Thing? An Acre is not an Acre, nor a Bushel a Bushel, if we travel but Ten Miles. A Pound is not a Pound, if you go from a Goldsmith to a Grocer; nor a Gallon a Gallon, if you go from the Ale-house to the Tavern. To what Purpose does this Variety serve, or what Necessity is there, which the Difference of Price would not better answer and supply?

THE next Denomination of Money we meet with, is a *Mark*, which the Saxons call'd *Mancus* or *Mancusa*, *Mearc*, &c. Amongst them it came to Thirty Pence, which was of their Money Six Shillings; when a *Mark* came to be valu'd at 13 s. 4 d. is not very certain from History, but *Matthew Paris*, in the Life of *Guarinus*, Abbot of *St. Albans*, in the Year 1194, tells us a *Mark* was then 13 s. 4 d. and so it has continu'd to this Day, without any Variation; but here 'tis necessary to be observ'd, that there was never any such Piece of Silver coin'd as a *Mark*, nor probably any such Piece of Gold since the *Norman Conquest*,
tho'

tho' some think it takes its Name from some Mark or Signature on it. Nor was there ever any such Piece of Silver coin'd as an *Angel*; but for as much as the Piece of Gold of that Name was in Value Ten Shillings, therefore that Sum is call'd an *Angel*; and so likewise it is with what we call a *Noble*, which goes for Six Shillings and Eight Pence in Accounts; but there has not been any such Piece of Gold coin'd at that Price since the 9th of *Hen. V.* they were first coin'd by *Edw. III.* 1344, there being at that Time no Silver Coin but *Pence* and *Half-Pence*; but about Five Years afterward *Groats* and *Half-Groats* were coin'd. And here it may not be improper to take notice, that in 1389, several Coiners were condemn'd and hang'd for adulterating the Coin.

A *CROWN* was not coin'd before *Edward VI's* Time, it being the first Silver Coin of the Value of Five *Shillings*; the Name is very ancient, but then it was always of Gold. *Half-Crowns*, they were of the same Date with the *Crowns*, they not having been in Use with us before.

SHILLINGS, there was never any Piece of Silver of that Name coin'd in *England*, till the Year 1504, when *Fabian*, an ob-

serving Citizen that liv'd at that Time, says, A new Coin of Silver *Groats*, and *Half-Groats*, and *Shillings* with half Faces, was made.

TESTONS, or as they are call'd at this Day, *Testers*, from a Head that was upon them, were coin'd 34 *Hen. VIII.* there were another Sort, which *Stow* says were in 1559, cry'd-down to *Two-pence-farthing*, and a third Sort, that would not pass at any Rate. Most certain it is, there were extreamly good ones coin'd in *Edw. VI's* Time; and they have continu'd from thence in all our Kings and Queens Reigns, and are said to be the most useful Pieces we have among us.

GROATS; more of these Pieces will be said under the *Penny*. *Grossus*, implies Great; and the *Groat* was, in all likelihood, when they were first coin'd, the greatest Piece in Use.

THREE-PENCES; of these I do not find any mention made till the Year 1561, at which Time Queen *Elizabeth* coin'd them, with *Six-pences*, *Four-pences*, *Two-pences*, and *Pennies*, 1 *ob.* and *ob. q.* Pieces: At the same Time, she call'd in all the base Money, and set the Coin upon that Foot it
now

now stands; which being of very great Benefit to the Nation, ought to be look'd upon as one of the greatest Glories of her Reign.

PENNY; in *Latin Denarius*, was the first coin'd Piece in Use among us, and for many Years the only one: It is very evident from History, that *Denarius*, was the same Thing as *Nummus*; and therefore *Simeon of Durham*, in 1126, says, The Men that were found to have made false Money, *i. e. Denarii*, not of pure Silver, were hang'd. In *Hen. Ps Days*; 'Tis certain, there were *Half-Pence*, and 9 *Edw. III. cap. 3.* it is enacted, That no *Sterling*, *i. e. Penny, Half-Penny*, or *Farthing*, should be melted down by the *Goldsmiths*. So that we find these Men made a Prey of the Nation about Four Hundred Years ago, as the *Refiners* and *Goldsmiths* seem to do now. *John Stow* says, that *Pence* and *Half-pence* were not coin'd round before the Year 1279, tho' 'tis evident they were so in 1108; for *Simeon of Durham* says, then the King appointed the *Pence* and *Half-Pence* should be all round. Of this Alteration of the Coin were made the following Verses:

Edward

Edward did smite round Penny, Half-penny,
 Farthing,
 The Crosse passes the Bond of all throughout
 the Ring,
 The King's Side, was his Head and his Name
 written,
 The Crosse Side, what City it was in coyned and
 smitten,
 To poor Man, ne to Priest, the Penny frayses,
 nothing
 Men give God, ay, the least, they feast him
 with a Farthing;
 A thousand, two hundred, fourscore Years, and
 mo,
 On this Money Men wondred, when it first be-
 gan to goe.

THE Register of Bury says, about this
 Time, the Pound of Esterling Money con-
 taining 12 Ounces, to wit, fine Silver
 (such as Men make into Foyle or Leaves,
 and is commonly call'd Silver of Gutherom
 Lane, Gutter Lane, now call'd) 11 Ounces
 2 Esterlings, and one Ferling or Farthing,
 and the other 17 d. ob. q. to be Allay. Al-
 so the Pound ought to weigh of Money
 20 Shillings and 3 Pence by Account;
 so that no Pound ought to be above 20
 Shillings 4 d. nor less than 20 Shillings 2 d.
 by

by Account, the Ounce is to weigh 20 d.
the Penny to weigh 24 Grains.

Obulus, signifies an *Half-Penny*, or half of any Thing. History does not inform us when it was first Coined, but it's supposed it was Coin'd as early as we find it mention'd, because it is not a denomination which may be answered by other Money.

Ferlingus or *Farthing*, we shall make an end when we have observed, that when you meet, in old Donations, with such words as *Librata Terra Marcata Sollidata*, or *Denariata*, you are to understand as much Land as will yield the Rent of a *Pound*, a *Mark*, a *Shilling*, or a *Penny* by the Year.

Here follows a Table, by which you will easily understand into how many *Shillings*, a Pound weight of *Silver* has at different Times been Coin'd, with its *Alloy*, and what the Ounce was worth in common Estimation.

And thus it continu'd all the Reign of E. 3. R. 2. H. 4. till 9 H. 5.	Years.		Fines		Alloy		Shillings		The Ounce worth.			
			oz.	dw.	oz.	dw.	s.	d.	l.	s.	d.	
	28	E. i.	11	2	0	18	20	4	0	1	8	
	20	E. iii.	11	2	0	18	22	6	0	1	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	27	E. iii.	11	2	0	18	25		0	2	1	
	9	H. v.	11	2	0	18	30		0	1	6	
	1	H. vi.	11	2	0	18	37	6	0	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	4	H. vi.	11	2	0	18	30		0	2	6	
	24	H. vi.	11	2	0	18	30		0	2	6	

Fabian

Fabian says, 23 *Edw. III.* that he Coin'd Groats, and Half-Groats, that wanted Two Shillings and Six-Pence of the Old Standard in a Pound Troy: This was in 1349, or 1350.

Years.	Fine		Alloy		Shillings		The Ounce worth.			
	oz. dw.		oz. dw.		s.	d.	l.	s.	d.	
49 H. vi.	11	2	0	18	37	6	0	3	1½	Fine Silver 4 s. 9 d. Half-Penny the Ounce
5, 8, II, } 16, 24 } <i>Edw. iv.</i>	11	2	0	18	37	6	0	3	1½	
I R. iii.										
9 H. vii.										
I H. viii.	11	2	0	18	45		0	3	9	Half-Penny the Ounce
34 H. viii.	10	0	2	0	48		0	4	0	
36 H. viii.	6	0	6	0	48		0	4	0	
37 H. viii.	4	0	8	0	48		0	4	0	
I E. vi.	4	0	8	0	40		0	4	0	
3 E. vi.	6	0	6	0	72		0	6	0	
5 E. vi.	3	0	9	0	72		0	6	0	
6 E. vi.	11	1	0	19	60		0	5	0	
Q. Mary	11	0	1	0	60		0	5	0	
2 Eliz.	11	2	0	18	60		0	5	0	
19 Eliz.	11	2	0	18	60		0	5	0	
43 Eliz.	11	2	0	18	62					
Jac. i.	11	2								
Car. i.	11	2								
Jac. ii.	11	2	0	18	62		0	5	0	
W. & Mary	11	2								
Q. Anne	11	2								

Here it will be very much to our Purpose to take Notice, That when *Sir Rob. Cotton* was call'd to deliver his Opinion, touching the Alteration of the Coin, before the

the Lords of the Privy Council, in the Second Year of the Reign of *Charles* the I. he falls very heavy on the Reign of *Henry* the VI. for Mismanagements in the Affair of Money, as tho' it had suffered very great Debasement in his Time, and prejudiced the Minds of his Subjects against him. He takes notice likewise, that when the Lord Treasurer *Burleigh*, and Sir *Tho. Smith*, were call'd upon by *Q. Elizabeth* to give their Opinion about the change of Money, they advised her to reduce the Standard to the ancient Purity and Parity of her great Grandfather *Edward IV.* its to be observed, that *Henry* the V. in the Ninth of his Reign, according to Mr. *Lowndes's* Accounts, had raised the Money to Thirty *Shillings* the *Poand*; and that *Henry VI.* in the First of his Reign advanced it to 37 *Shillings* 6 *Pence*; but he kept still to the Old Standard of Fineness; for if the Standard be not chainged all all other Changes are meerly Nominal, for 37 *s.* and 6 *d.* will buy no more *Wheat* than 30 *s.* when Persons are apprised there is no more Fine Silver in 37 *s.* 6 *d.* than in 30 *s.* the last mentioned Change did not continue long, for 2 *Henry VI.* c. 13. upon Complaint made in Parliament, That there was a scarcity of *Silver* or *white Money*, as it was then call'd, by

C

reason

reason that *Silver* uncoined was Bought and Sold at 32 *Shillings* the Pound Troy: Whereas, it was of no more Value when coined, than 32 *Shillings* (12 *d.* being abated for the Coinage) it was Enacted, That none should Buy or Sell any *Silver* uncoined for above 30 *Shillings* the Pound Troy, besides the Fashion, I believe no Body will answer for the Reasonableness of this Act, but it proves clearly, that the Pound did not long contain 37 *s.* 6 *d.* and it's very evident, that 4 *Hen.* VI. it came again to 30 *s.* and so continu'd to the very last Year of his Reign; when it was again advanced to 37 *s.* 6 *d.* and so continued for near 50 Years. From hence it appears that, the greatest Debasements of King *Henry* VI. was just equal to, and indeed the same with the Parity and Purity of King *Edw.* the IV. In the 5 of *Edw.* VI. 9 Ounces of *Allay* were added to 3 Ounces of *fine Silver*, and at that Rate of Mixture, was coined into 288 *Shillings* or 14 Pound 8 *Shillings*, and the Ounce into 24 *Shillings*, which was intolerable. At that Time one of our Colleges lost by Two Proclamations out of 118 Pound, 6 *Shillings* and Eleven-pence; 29 Pound, 11 *Shillings* 8 Pence; and out of

of 45 Pound, 3 Shillings; they lost 15 Pound 1 Shilling, which was a fourth and a third Part of every One's Cash in the Space of two Months. It will be remembred much to the Honour of King William's Reign, to have remedy'd the greatest Abuse of Money that was ever known in *England*, and that at a Time of the greatest Danger, and Expence, and with very little Grievance of the People too. But sure, 'tis better to prevent a moderate Mischief, than redress a very great one, and perhaps a Proclamation of a few Lines forbidding any clipped Money to be received into the King's *Exchequer* in 1690, would have prevented the clipping and spoiling 5 Millions.

I PROCEED now to fulfil the last Part of my Promise, which was to hint at a Method of preventing the farther Waste of our Silver Coin: In the first Place, it should seem to be absolutely necessary that we take into Consideration the several Proportions which the Standard of divers Nations bare in Comparison to ours, which, One would reasonably imagine, ought to be the Measure by which ours ought then to have been rated. It has

been observ'd, That the establishing of our Standard about 16 *per Cent.* in intrinsic Value, when the Money was re-coin'd in Silver to be above that of other Nations constantly Trafficking with us; which must be the true Cause why no Silver *Bullion* imported from other Nations, either in Coin or Ingots, was, since the re-coinning our Silver Specie, ever coin'd at the Tower: In short, it seems very necessary, that our Money should be brought to a Par, according to the Standard of different Nations: It has been said, in other Cases, That the Knowledge of the Disease, is half the Cure: This then we are assured of, That our Coin not being at a Par with our Neighbours, is one Cause, and our melting down our Silver at Home, is the other: We are come to such a Pass now, that we give Eleven *Pence Half-penny* more for a *French Crown*, than what it is really worth, according to our Standard. I am entirely of a Gentleman's Mind, who would have the same Penal Law, which is now established against Exportation of our Coin, inflicted upon such Persons as are not guided by the following Rules, in their constant Practice.

Amster-

Amsterdam; Seven and Thirty *Shillings Flemish*, not under, for to receive there, for every *Pound Sterling* here.

Hamburgh and *Antwerp*, not under Five and Thirty *Shillings* and Half *Flemish*.

Leghorn, *Genoa*, *Madrid* and *Cádiz*, no Man to pay for a Piece of Eight there, above One and Fifty and Three-half *Pence Sterling* here.

Paris, Six and Thirty *Pence Sterling* for every *Crown* of one Hundred *Sols* there.

IT will be useless to take Notice of the *Exchange* for *Venice* and *Portugal*, seeing that *Exchange*, is rather to our Advantage, supposing that the above-mention'd Remedy, if establish'd by Law, will, at least, hinder the Exportation of our Silver, if not contribute toward the Increase and Continuation of that Commodity with us. This will entirely knock that Project on the Head of lessening our Standard of Silver Four *Pence* in every Ounce, which the Honourable House of COMMONS would not hear of, as being to our great Prejudice; and, have
other-

otherways determin'd. By this Means, the Honour of the Nation, with respect to our Coin, will be maintain'd; the keeping up to our Standard, will maintain our glorious Character among Foreigners, and we shall Flourish in spite of the little, discontented, despis'd Faction among us. It only remains, that we observe, That every One is left at Liberty to receive as many *Shillings Flemish* in *Holland, Hamburgh* and *Antwerp*, as he can agree for, above the fore-mention'd Price; and to give as many *Pence Sterling* less, for *Paris, Madrid, Cadiz, Leghorn* and *Genoa*, as he can contract for one Piece of *Eight* less than what is already taken notice of.

But all the necessary Precautions we can make use of to prevent the Exportation of Silver, will but in part rectify the Disorder; except we can prevent its being melted down at home: Shall a Set of People make a Prey of the whole Nation, by Melting down our Coin? Shall we continue to be bubbled by the *Refiners*, and sit quietly and peaceably under our Affliction? No sure; Did His most Excellent MAJESTY think proper but to fix a Refiner in the *Mint*, who should deliver
out

out *Silver* at a certain and constant Price; it would infallibly check the Exorbitancies of those Persons, and bring Matters under a very agreeable Regulation. That this may effectually be done, and our Affairs brought under a sure and lasting Method, is without doubt the hearty wish of all true *English Men*, who think themselves blessed with so happy a Constitution as we enjoy.

F I N I S.



our Show at a certain and constant Price
it would intially check the Exorbitance
eies of those Persons, and bring Matters
under a very agreeable Regulation. That
this may effectually be done, and our Af-
fairs brought under a true and lasting
Method, is without doubt the hearty
wish of all true English Men, who think
themselves blessed with so happy a Con-
stitution as we enjoy.

F V N S

